

WYCOMBE Wanderers manager, Brian Lee has accused the Berks and Bucks F.A. of a "certain amount of bloody-mindedness" in refusing the club's application for permission to enter the London Senior Cup competition, writes Mike Whitesman.

He was replying to a question from the floor during Friday night's annual meeting at the British Legion Hall, St. Mary's Street.

Supporters club treasurer, Jack Richardson asked whether in view of the "diabolical composition" of Wycombe's section in the Premier Floodlight League next season, the club

had thought of going into anything stronger.

Club chairman, Jack Smethurst explained that an attempt had been made to enter the London Senior Cup, the semi finalists of which automatically qualified for the London Challenge Cup, involving leading professional clubs and offering attractive fixtures.

Although there was a possibility of only one game should Wanderers be knocked out in the first round, the London Senior Cup still offered the prospect of better fixtures. However, the club had been barred from entering by the Berks and Bucks F.A.

Mr. Lee, reiterating the op-

portunities offered by entry into the London Senior Cup, then told the meeting: "I disagree entirely with the Berks and Bucks."

He thought they were "holding back the interest of this area," and suggested there was a "certain amount of bloody-mindedness" about their decision.

The meeting, lasting less than an hour, ran smoothly. Mr. Smethurst, dealing with the club report for 1971-72 season, commented on Wycombe's "well balanced side" and pointed to the many goals scored and the few conceded throughout the term.

Examining the balance sheet, which showed a deficit of £2,822

for the last 12 months, he noted the "significant" drop of approximately £6,000 in revenue from home "games" in comparison with 1970-71.

In his report, Secretary Bert Crump had written: "Financially we were not so successful, due principally to an early exit from the F.A. Cup, and to the fact of some of our more attractive home league fixtures falling on unfortunate dates."

Mr. Smethurst complemented this statement. The club had been "badly served by fixtures," he said, noting that some of the better Isthmian League fixtures at Loakes Park had been played after the title had been won.

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st May, 1972

| 1971 £ | | 1972 £ |
|-----------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| | Capital Fund Account: | |
| | Balance at 1st June, 1971 | 8780 |
| 8780 | Less Deficit for season per | |
| | Income & Expenditure Account | 2822 |
| | | <u>5958</u> |
| | Current Liabilities: | |
| 2165 | Sundry Creditors | 1758 |
| - | Bank Overdraft | 1731 |
| 2165 | | <u>3489</u> |
| | Accounts approved: | |
| | J. SMETHURST (Chairman) | |
| | R.N. LEE (Treasurer) | |
| | A.J. CRUMP (Secretary) | |
| 10945 | | <u>£9447</u> |
| | Fixed Assets: | |
| | Land: Loakes Park, High Wycombe, | |
| | Donated by Frank Adams, Esq. | |
| | (vested in Trustees) | |
| | Stands, Buildings, Ground | |
| | Improvements, and Equipment: | |
| | Items donated, not valued | |
| | Expended by Club to 31st | |
| | May, 1972. | |
| 8018 | | <u>8018</u> |
| | Current Assets: | |
| 1030 | Amounts Receivable | 447 |
| 61 | Stock of Ties and Badges | 32 |
| 1824 | Cash at Bank | - |
| 12 | Cash in Hand | 950 |
| 2927 | | <u>1429</u> |
| 10945 | | <u>£9447</u> |

Report of the Auditors to the Members of Wycombe Wanderers F.C.

We have examined the books and records of the Club and have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our Audit.

We certify that the foregoing accounts are in accordance therewith. These accounts do not include the monies of the Development Fund for which Separate Accounts have been prepared.

27 High Street, High Wycombe.

6th July, 1972.

R.M. BLAIKIE & CO
Auditors

However from the deficit a sum of approximately £1,100 should be subtracted, as Wanderers had since received their share of the Amateur Cup (£850 approx.) and Berks and Bucks Senior Cup (£250 approx.) pools.

The aim of the club, Mr. Smethurst explained, was to attempt to balance income with expenditure. The Development Fund had been left untouched and, after two years, stood at £9,041 — "a marvellous bit of work," enthused the chairman.

Mr. Smethurst also announced a further donation made the previous night by the Supporters club of £1,000, adding to the £2,129 previously donated by them during the season.

There was a four-way ballot for the three vacant places on the general committee. Two of the three retiring members, Chris Avery and John Goldsworthy, won re-election while Bob Hart was voted in for the first time. Long serving member, Reg Holt was narrowly beaten in the ballot.

While the votes were being tallied, Mr. Lee commented on last season. He listed his order of priorities with respect to competitions entered by the club, placing the Isthmian League at the top.

"I personally, would settle for winning the Isthmian League championship again," he said. "I know nobody in this room would agree." He was referring to the disappointment at Wycombe's dismissal in the Amateur Cup semi final at Brentford.

Mr. Lee thought the side had been "pretty consistent" during the season, and noted that "consistency must be the keyword."

He paid tribute to last season's playing squad. "We had a good group of players, a very good squad, a high standard, very well led by John Delaney. Let no man be unaware of the value of this particular player to this club."

But he added this warning: "We will be even more disappointed this year," he said. "Criticise you — become far more critical, expect more."

The manager repeated a former message to supporters, again appealing to supporters to "hope" Wycombe would win, rather than "expect" them to. Many visiting players and officials had expressed surprise at the quietness around the ground despite the size of the crowd at matches.

Also under discussion in addition to the question concerning the Premier Floodlight League raised by Mr. Richardson, was the situation concerning Wanderers' future at Loakes Park.

Mr. Smethurst told the meeting that the ground's trustees were "Still having discussions," but did not think he ought to make any further comment at the time. He did however re-assure supporters by promising "we shan't find ourselves without a ground."

Officers elected: President—M. E. Seymour, chairman—J. Smethurst, secretary—A. J. Crump, treasurer—R. N. Lee.

C. Avery, J. Goldsworthy, and R. Hart were elected to committee, joining G. Cox, P. Pearce, J. Rackstraw, T. Thomas, H. Wharton, and R. Williams.